

Steven F. Hill, P.C.

steve.hill@millernash.com (360) 619-7004 direct line

PORTLAND, OREGON
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
CENTRAL OREGON
WWW.MILLERNASH.COM

12.3.360.1

500 East Broadway Suite 400 Vancouver, Washington 98660-3324 OFFICE 360.699.4771

FAX 360.694.6413

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Environmental Cleanup Office

June 23, 2010

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 Claire Hong, Remedial Project Manager Environmental Cleanup Office, ECL-111 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900 Seattle, Washington 98101

Subject:

Initial Response to U.S. EPA CERCLA Section 104(e) Information Request

Lower Duwamish Waterway, Seattle, Washington

Kaiser Gypsum Company, Inc.

5931 East Marginal Way S., Seattle (Parcel No. 1924049092)

Dear Ms. Hong:

On behalf of Kaiser Gypsum Company, Inc. ("Kaiser Gypsum"), we submit Kaiser Gypsum's initial response to the Information Request issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") under CERCLA Section 104(e) and dated February 19, 2010 (the "Request"). The Request was received by Kaiser Gypsum on or about February 22, 2010. On April 19, 2010, Kaiser Gypsum requested, in writing, an extension of time to respond to the Request. An extension was granted by EPA on April 21, 2010, extending the date for Kaiser Gypsum's response to June 23, 2010.

Since Kaiser Gypsum is not currently an operating entity and has no current operations in the Seattle area, Kaiser Gypsum first undertook to identify its historical involvement with the real property identified in the Request (King County Parcel No. 1924049092). In a subsequent telephone conference and e-mail exchange with you, EPA identified another parcel (King County Parcel No. 5367204505) that EPA believes was connected to Kaiser Gypsum's historic operations. We conducted a title search of this additional parcel and found that Kaiser Gypsum was not listed in the title history for this parcel. Therefore, we have no basis to confirm that Kaiser Gypsum had any connection to this additional parcel.

As stated in its Initial Statement, Kaiser Gypsum has not conducted any active business operations in the state of Washington since the early 1980's, and currently has no employees in Washington. In addition, based on available information





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and belief, all former employees of Kaiser Gypsum with knowledge of its operations at the property located at 5931 East Marginal Way S. in Seattle, Washington have either passed away, or the whereabouts of such former employees are unknown. Kaiser Gypsum's current officers and directors were not employees of Kaiser Gypsum or affiliated with Kaiser Gypsum at the time Kaiser Gypsum conducted active business operations. Therefore, Kaiser Gypsum's response to the Request is based solely on counsel for Kaiser Gypsum's review of historical documents, title records, and corporate tax documents.

At or around the time that it ceased active business operations, Kaiser Gypsum collected certain of its business records and sent them to storage facilities in California. These documents are still stored in California and are subject to strict retention directives related to ongoing litigation involving Kaiser Gypsum. These documents cover a variety of historical information, and are believed to contain documents related to historical operating facilities in multiple states, including Washington. Counsel for Kaiser Gypsum was able to locate certain indexes of the California documents, but these indexes were not identified with sufficient time prior to the June 23, 2010 deadline to search the indexes or to search any boxes that might be identified for further review based on such an index search. Over the next few months, counsel for Kaiser Gypsum will conduct such searches and will supplement this Initial Response, as appropriate, based on any responsive information identified as a result of such searches.

The relevant documents that were available for review are enclosed with Kaiser Gypsum's response on two separate compact disks. Some of the responsive documents contain tax, financial, insurance, or other internal corporate data that Kaiser Gypsum asserts are Confidential Business Information ("CBI") pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e)(7)(E). We have providing the CBI documents on a separate disk marked "Confidential Business Information" consistent with 40 C.F.R §2.203(b). We request that EPA take appropriate measures to properly safeguard the CBI documents and to protect against the improper disclosure of the CBI documents or the information contained in those documents, as required by 40 C.F.R §2.211.

Very truly yours,
Steven F. Hill, P.C.